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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAN JO 02227 022352Z

60
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 022674
O 022325Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0358

S E C R E T SAN JOSE 2227

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS CS
SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

REF: SAN JOSE 2210 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION DURING CALL ON MAY 30 AS TO WHAT WEIGHT HE ATTRIBUTED TO CURRENT RUMORS OF POSSIBLE COUP FROM EXTREME LEFT, EXTREME RIGHT, OR EVEN PEPE FIGUERES, FONMIN FACIO RESPONDED WITH FRANK ACCOUNT WHICH CLOSELY PARALLELS THAT GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR EARLIER BY PRESIDENT ODUBER (SAN JOSE 1948 AND 1745).

2. FACIO SAID THAT HE TOLD FIGUERES THAT IF HE SHOULD ATTEMPT A COUP, HE (FACIO) AND OTHER KEY PLN OLDTIMERS WOULD STAND BY ODUBER. FACIO ADDED THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT IF CHALLENGED IN THIS WAY, ODUBER WOULD STAND AND FIGHT IF NECESSARY, AND THAT HE WOULD PREVAIL. FACIO BELIEVES THAT FIGUERES NOW APPRECIATES THIS AND IS THEREFORE LESS LIKELY TO ATTEMP A COUP. ACCORING TO FACIO, ODUBER WILL DO EVERY-THING HE CAN TO PLAY FIGUERES ALONG AND THUS TRY TO AVOID PRECIPITATING SUCH A CONFRONTATION.

3. FACIO ASLO SAID THAT HE AND ODUBER ARE CONFIDENT THAT NEITHER TORRIJOS NOR SOMOZA WILL ENCOURAGE OR SUPPORT FIGUERES IF HE WERE TO ATTEMPT A COUP. THE ONLY LEADER IN CENTRAL AMERICA WHO THEY BELIEVE MIGHT FISH IN THESE WATERS IS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA, BUT WITHOUT THE COOPERATION
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OF SOMOZA HE IS NOT A SERIOUS THREAT.

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4. FACIO DID NOT DIRECTLY CONFIRM THAT VESCO HAD APPROACHED HIM AS ODUBER HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR, BUT HE HINTED AT IT BY SAYING THAT VESCO WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO SEE A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT AND WAS PROBABLY ENCOURAGING FIGUERES SINCE HE BELIEVES THAT HE WOULD ENJOY GREATER PROTECTION FROM FIGUERES THAN FROM ODUBER. FACIO ADDED THAT HE WARNED ODUBER OF THIS DANGER.
LANE

SECRET

NNN

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